THE MORMON COUNTRY: A SUMMER WITH THE "LATTER-DAY SAINTS."

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649012695

The Mormon country: a summer with the "Latter-Day Saints." by John Codman

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JOHN CODMAN.

NEW YORK:
UNITED STATES PUBLISHING COMPANY,
13 UNIVERSITY PLACE.
1874.

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Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1874, by the UNITED STATES PUBLISHING COMPANY, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

> JOHN F. TROW & SON, PRINTERS AND HOOKBINDERS, 205-213 East 12th St., NEW YORK,

I would be affectation studiously to avoid, or to apologize for the frequent use of a personal pronoun in a personal narrative. It is a necessity.

The manuscript was first offered to a prominent literary magazine. It was returned with the objection that it was too impartial. No higher praise is asked for the book.

When I parted from my old school-mate, HORACE F. CLARK, at Ogden, I said: "If I write a book I shall dedicate it to you."

It was his laudable ambition to control the great trans-continental railway lines of the United States. Had he lived, he would have succeeded; and his honest and sagacious administration would have maintained the value of the roads, and developed the resources of the Great West to their most available capacity.

His death occasioned a loss to the material interests of his country, and is sincerely mourned by his numerous friends, one of whom

Inscribes this little bolume

As a Aribute

To his Alemory.



THE MORMON COUNTRY.

CHAPTER I.

The Overland Trip,—Experience of Hasty Travellers,—Arrival at Salt Lake City.—Reception by Brigham Young.—Excursion on the Utah Southern Railroad,—Meeting at the Tabernacle,—Leaving Salt Lake for California,—Return to Salt Lake.

THE overland trip is becoming a fashionable relaxation. Improvements in railroad locomotion, by which nervous persons may spend days and nights in rapid motion and fancied security, decide the direction of their summer travel. Those who but for the wreck of the Atlantic, and the sinking of the Ville du Havre, might have "gone abroad," now discover that their own country has unsurpassed attractions. The Yosemite supplants Switzerland for romantic tourists, and Santa Barbara on the Pacific shore offers a cure for the clergyman's sore-throat equal to that of a voyage to Europe.

But in the haste with which our people generally congratulate themselves upon having "done" the overland journey, they are content to be whisked over the rails to their destination, making notes on

the way of what they see from the windows of the cars, or at the restaurants where they are allowed twenty minutes for refreshments. A maudlin curiosity induces many travellers to time their arrival at Ogden on Saturday, so that they may branch off and spend Sunday at Salt Lake City, take a drive of an hour or two there, go to the Tabernacle meeting, see · Brigham Young's house, if not Brigham himself, peep into some dwelling where a man is supposed to have more than one wife, and return in time to take the Sunday evening train for the West. They buy a big book written by Mr. Stenhouse, a small book by Mrs. Stenhouse, and the "Life of Bill Hickman, the Destroying Angel," and, having read up thoroughly, fill the cavities of their minds with details from these to supply what they did not learn from their extended visit of half a day. Thus they become perfectly informed as to the character and social status of the Mormon people.

I have varied somewhat from this usual routine, having passed three months chiefly among the Mormons, and have neglected reading the books referred to, with the exception of that of Mrs. Stenhouse, which came accidentally in my way. I stayed some weeks in Salt Lake City, and passed others in wagon and horseback journeys through the valleys and mountains, indebted to the hospitality of Mor-

mon and Gentile alike, and am somewhat prepared to give an account of things that I saw, not of things as they ought or ought not to be.

Just before leaving I waited on President Young to pay a parting call. Expressing to him my obligations for the polite attentions of himself and of several members of his family, he said, "I am glad you have been civilly treated, but don't let that prejudice you in our favor. If you say anything about us, tell the truth." This is what I propose to do, in a running account of travel, with some comments on the social condition of the people and the agricultural and mineral resources of the country.

It will perhaps be remembered that in May last the late Hon. Horace F. Clark, President of the Union Pacific Railroad, visited Salt Lake City, in company with Speaker Blaine, and a party of other gentlemen and some ladies. The newspapers gave full accounts of their reception and of the impressions made by it. I was fortunate enough to arrive with them at Ogden, and there joining the party, participated in the attentions bestowed upon them.

At Ogden, which is also the junction of the Union and Central Pacific Railroads, the Utah Central, a profitable branch thirty-eight miles long, built and owned almost exclusively by Mormons, connects with Salt Lake City. It may here be remarked that the